Fall in Immunization Cover

1385. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that other immunization cover of kid diseases has significantly fallen after pulse polio; and

(b) the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to cover the other kid diseases, as well?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) There has been significant decline in the number of reported cases of vaccine preventable diseases over a period of time. However, evaluated coverage undertaken by independent agencies shows there was some decline in the vaccination coverage during 1999-2000, perhaps due to the additional pressures exerted on the health administration in States by four national rounds (six rounds in high risk states) of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization Programme during that year. This decline was, however, arrested during 2000-01 when a significant improvement was registered. The vaccination coverage figures during the last three years are given below (Source UNICEF Coverage Evaluation Survey):—

Vaccine	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
BCG	72.3%	67.5%	72.8%
DPT	68.6%	46.4%	63.6%
OPV	68.6%	58.8%	70.7%
Measles	55.2%	50.2%	55.6%
Fully immunized Children	51%	37.8%	53.8%

A National Immunization Programme covering six vaccine preventable diseases *viz.* Diphtheria, Pertusis, Neonatal Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Measles and childhood Tuberculosis is already being implemented throughout the country. In order to improve the quality and also to expand the outreach of the routine immunization programme Government has recently launched with World Bank aid, a major programme for strengthening routine immunization with particular focus on States and districts where improvement is necessary. The Government has also approved introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination on a pilot basis in selected cities and districts of the country.